



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES OF STORAGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 1

C. L. "Butch" Otter
Governor

Jerry R. Rigby
Chairman
Rexburg
At Large

Terry T. Uhling
Vice Chairman
Boise
District 2

Bob Graham
Secretary
Bonners Ferry
At Large

**Charles "Chuck"
Cuddy**
Orofino
District 1

Leonard Beck
Burley
District 3

L. Claude Storer
Idaho Falls
District 4

**Gary M.
Chamberlain**
Challis
At Large

**Lawrence "Vic"
Armacost**
New Meadows
At Large

Northern Regional Office IDWR
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
July 16, 2008
7:00 p.m.

The Chairman of the committee, Terry Uhling, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Bob Graham, Vic Armacost, Chuck Cuddy and Jerry Rigby were also present.

Staff members present were Hal Anderson, Administrator; Brian Patton, Bureau Chief of Planning; Helen Harrington, Planning Section Manager, and Patsy McGourty, Recording Secretary.

Guests in attendance were:

John Chatburn, Governor's Office Ron Abramowitz, NRCS
John Williams, Bonneville Power Assn.

Agenda Item No. 1, Storage Projects Status and Overview

Chairman Uhling asked the committee members and the Director for comments.

Director Tuthill addressed the group noting that in all the groups he has been in there is positive feedback about getting more storage water in the State. He said the State of Washington needs more storage. Rather than study needs and spend additional money, Idaho is ready to go ahead and find new storage. Staff are looking at locations previously identified to assess their current viability.

Mr. Graham asked if this meant enlarging existing sites only. The Director responded that it did not. He noted that, for instance, the Galloway site was previously identified. There was discussion about which sites have been inventoried. Chairman Uhling asked when the last storage was built. Mr. Patton replied that was the Ririe Dam.

Chairman Uhling asked if the committee should be looking at dredging as an option? Mr. Patton replied that dredging had been done in other states like Colorado and it is very expensive. There was discussion about other dredging programs and this was one solution to the problem. Mr. Graham noted that the Corps of Engineers has dredged the Kootenai River for sturgeon habitat.

Chairman Uhling stated there is also the issue of aquifer storage. Director Tuthill responded that recharge is a component of the ESPA storage plan and that this committee's effort will augment that plan. Director Tuthill noted that neighboring states all have interest in storage and staff will work with them cooperatively. Chairman Uhling pointed out that using the facilities already built would be most cost effective.

Mr. Armacost added that the Payette Basin needs a broader study and this is one of the largest untapped water sources. Mr. Patton pointed out that the new basin studies planning program will include these studies. Chairman Uhling pointed out that conservation should be part of the package. Mr. Armacost agreed that the Boise Basin definitely needs conservation efforts.

Mr. Patton presented a paper outlining the status of where studies are proceeding: 1) Minidoka Dam Enlargement, 2) Teton Replacement and 3) Twin Springs.

The Minidoka Dam Enlargement contract is being finalized with the Bureau of Reclamation. It is a feasibility study that will take approximately 18 months and be finished in 2010. Chairman Uhling stated he would like to see goals attached to dollars for the public on this project.

The Teton Replacement study is funded by the Legislature at \$400,000 for a reconnaissance level study. Currently, staff is scoping the parameters of this study. Mr. Rigby suggested that the Fremont-Madison Canal Company Study that was previously completed should be a resource for this effort. A cooperative agreement between the state and the Bureau of Reclamation will be written and perhaps a request for proposals will be issued. Chairman Uhling noted that there are huge economic issues looming right now in our country and many federal agencies are stalled for funding. Discussion followed on this topic. Mr. John Williams from the Bonneville Power Administration discussed the power needs in the Teton Basin.

The Twin Springs Project in the Boise River Basin is also a possible site. The Corps of Engineers has received authorization funding from Congress to study the Boise. Staff is scoping the contract now with the corps. When this is completed work can begin. Mr. Anderson noted that 100,000 acre-feet of water is needed for municipal and agricultural use and the rest is needed for flood control for the Boise Valley. FEMA is very interested and wants to participate in this effort. The Twin Springs Reservoir would be above Arrowrock and it could also produce power at about 100 megawatts.

The Galloway project in the upper Weiser could take pressure off the Upper Snake, Boise and Payette for salmon flow augmentation. It currently has no funding or authorization. There was discussion regarding this potential site and the benefits and costs. Director Tuthill said this would be a good project for the state to sponsor and construct.

Agenda Item No. 2. Committee Mission and Next Step

Chairman Uhling asked what this committee should do. Director Tuthill recommended that the Board should make some progress on the Galloway site and move forward working with the Governor's office. He also noted that the Farm Bureau is behind this project. Mr. Graham said the committee needs to provide emphasis to the Legislature by putting together a package for a reconnaissance study at Galloway. Mr. Armacost noted that the House speaker lives above the project. Director Tuthill stated that although the Legislative Interim Committee asked for briefing on storage it does need to go to the Governor's Office first.

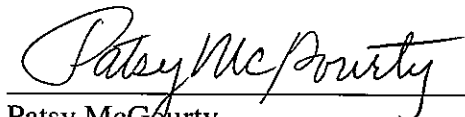
Chairman Uhling asked what the hurdles were for the Galloway site. Several ideas were presented: 1) not all locals may not support the project; 2) environmental issues; and 3) funding. He thought it was important to develop a ranking on proposed sites and prioritize them. Director Tuthill expressed a desire to talk with the Governor.

Agenda Item No. 3., Meeting Schedule

The committee set a telephonic meeting for Thursday, August 21 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss concepts.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dated this 23rd day of July 2008.


Patsy McGourty
Administrative Assistant II